

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08764 021630Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 W  
-----052495 021735Z /47

P R 021619Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6773  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08764

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, NI, CG  
SUBJECT: GARBA'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: LAGOS 6773

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: GARBA'S PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 30 RECEIVED LIMITED COVERAGE HERE, OVERSHADOWED BY ATTENTION DEVOTED TO AFRICA AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON. GARBA SAID NIGERIA WAS READY, IS INVITED, TO SEND TROOPS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR THE LIBERATION OF RHODESIA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY NIGERIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER OAU AUSPICES. "WE WOULD GO TO RHODESIA TO FIGHT IF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS INVITED US. BUT SO FAR WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED. WE WOULD HAVE TO DO SO UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE OAU BECAUSE WE ARE NOT SETTING OUT TO MAKE OURSELVES THE POLICEMAN OF AFRICA. BUT WE WILL  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 08764 021630Z

DO ANYTHING FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE WILL MAKE ANY SACRIFICE FOR THAT. IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ASK US TO JOIN THEM ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WE WOULD DO SO."

2. ONLY THE "TIMES" REPORTS A COMMENT BY GARBA SAYING NIGERIA WOULD OFFER TROOPS TO DEFEND ZAIRE, BUT AGAIN,

THE CONTRIBUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER OAU AUSPICES.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WHICH DID NOT SEE GARBA DURING HIS BRIEF STOP-OVER HERE, INTERPRETS GARBA'S REMARKS AS MEANING THAT NIGERIA IS WILLING TO PLAY A MILITARY ROLE IN AFRICAN TROUBLE-SPOTS BUT ONLY IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT. BY IMPLICATION, THIS WOULD REJECT NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN AN EFFORT WHICH WOULD APPEAR EUROPEAN-SPONSORED.

4. GARBA MISSED SEEING SITHOLE HERE BUT MET WITH SITHOLE'S COLLEAGUES, KADZIVITI AND MALINDI, BOTH CO-MINISTERS IN THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT. THE MEETING WAS NOT A SUCCESS, WE UNDERSTAND, WITH THE TWO RHODESIANS SUBSEQUENTLY COMPLAINING OF GARBA'S "DICTATORIAL" ATTITUDE IN PRESSING THE SITHOLE GROUP TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, UK, NI, CG, (GARBA, JOSEPH N)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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